

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67:1-7

*Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (v3)*

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion & constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 67 (LBW translation)

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us & bless us, show us the light of his countenance, & come to us.

<sup>2</sup>Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. <sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. <sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad & sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity & guide all the nations upon earth. <sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. <sup>6</sup>The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing. <sup>7</sup>May God give us his blessing, & may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does God judge the people, or what is the basis for his judgment? *See Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 3:14-21; Romans 3:23-25, 8:31-39; 1 Peter 2:12; Revelation 20:11-15*
2. Harvest times are especially times for prayer (*cf. v6*). How does a big harvest demonstrate the faith of God's people? Hide it? How does a poor harvest witness to the faith of God's people? *See Habakkuk 3:17-19; See Luke 12:13-21*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What gets in the way of your actually trusting (rather than intellectualizing) that God provides all your "daily bread"? *See Small Catechism: Apostles' Creed I, Lord's Prayer, Daily & Meal Prayers; SC available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*
4. Try the following advice from late columnist & professor Mike Adams. "Rather than praying to God the same way you talk to your store-bound spouse – merely listing the things you want Him to get you – you should confine yourself to enumerating the blessings you already have. In fact, you could do it in alphabetical order – picking one blessing for every letter. If you follow my advice, your only problem will be choosing between the many blessings you have but rarely even think about."

Available [townhall.com/columnists/mikeadams/2023/06/23/life-and-how-to-live-it-part-v-n2624393](http://townhall.com/columnists/mikeadams/2023/06/23/life-and-how-to-live-it-part-v-n2624393)

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. *Vv2, 3, & 5* are hopeful prayers for the salvation of all people & nations (*cf. 1 Timothy 2:3-4*). The 20<sup>th</sup> century's technologies saw more people reached with the Good News than ever before. How can your church continue this work both abroad & in your own neighborhood? Which groups of people are not being reached in your community? How can you help?
6. Most people in the crowds were content to merely see God as an object of worship & Jesus as a celebrity, not persons to trust, then know, then give allegiance to. How does that knowledge help you see through the hype & connect with compassion to individuals? *See Matthew 15:21-28*

10th Sunday after Pentecost  
Series: Divine Mystery

08.06.23  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

...Of His Blessing

*With his love & power God blesses us beyond measure-  
& we praise him for it!*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing. (vv5-6)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom & cured every sickness among the people. (*Matthew 4:23*)

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